

June 2, 2009

## Alberta's Chambers of the Year

Medicine Hat and Peace River were honoured with 2008 Chamber of the Year Awards at the Alberta Chambers of Commerce's 71<sup>st</sup> Provincial Conference and Policy Session, held May 28 to 30 in Grande Prairie.

The annual awards were presented Saturday, May 30, at the Chair's Dinner where 130 chamber of commerce representatives from around Alberta gathered for the finale of the conference.

The Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce won Chamber of the Year in the 300-plus membership category. Medicine Hat is recognized for its dedication to advocacy and its continuing efforts to create a healthy business environment for its members. In 2008, the Medicine Hat Chamber hosted numerous events, all of which earned revenues, it also took 40 local business people to China, submitted policies for both national and provincial chamber federations, and continued to cultivate relationships beneficial to its business community. Medicine Hat Chamber's efforts to improve its region's economic environment and provide support for its members helped it boost its membership by five per cent in 2008.

Peace River is the 2008 Chamber of the Year Award recipient in the 101-300 membership category. The Peace River and District Chamber of Commerce saw significant change this past year, starting with the addition of a new manager. The chamber's accomplishments in 2008 include the following initiatives: a successful business awards program, which spawned two finalists (and one winner) in the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction; a higher profile in its community and the province; popular business mixers; and active involvement with committees and conferences in Peace River dealing with important local issues, such as employment recruitment potential, community visioning and tourism.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is a federation of 124 community-based chambers of commerce representing more than 22,000 businesses.

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Photos of the award recipients are available at [www.abchamber.ca](http://www.abchamber.ca). Click on *Chambers of the Year* under *Chambers in Alberta* to link to a page that will allow you to download the photos, or contact Terri Kemball at 425.4180, ext. 6 (toll-free at 1.800.272.8854).

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